GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:234
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2007
REVIEW OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAMMES
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up a high powered technical expert group to review the ongoing programmes under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the technical group is likely to submit its report to the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

The Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 234 to be answered on 30.11.2007

(a): A High-Powered Technical Expert Group (TEG) has been set in the Department of Drinking Water Supply to examine various emerging issues and challenges in the rural water supply and sanitation sector and suggest measures to tackle the new challenges which inter-alia include review the ongoing programmes under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC).

(b): The TEG has been constituted on August 16, 2007 under the chairmanship of Shri Gourisankar Ghosh, Founder Mission Director, Ex-Chief Water Supply & Sanitation, UNICEF, New York and former Executive Director, Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and (i) Shri Ajay Shankar, Former Principal Adviser, Planning Commission, (ii) Shri Ravi Narayanan, Ex-CEO, Action Aid, (iii) Prof. Indira Chakravarty, Director, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Government of India, Kolkata, (iv) Mr. Sudarshan Iyengar, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad and (v) Dr. A. K. Susheela, Former Professor & Head, Department of Community Medicine, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi as members. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) of TEG are as under:

i. Analyze the status of the ongoing programmes and identify issues and emerging challenges in enabling the rural community to have access to adequate safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis in all parts of the country;

ii. Identify critical linkages with other sectors for optimal impact on poverty reduction and better health for the poor through increased impact on access to safe drinking water and sanitation/ hygiene facilities and recommend improved operational and institutional linkages with other programmes like NRHM, watershed development and management, housing and industrial development, new research areas in science & technology, rural employment & NREGA, etc.;

iii. Review and recommend steps for better integration between drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene with health at the grass root level and recommend a strategy to channelise the efforts and resources properly to achieve the universal goal of safe drinking water and sanitation to all by 2012 in India;

iv. Identify existing gaps in water and sanitation technologies and its usage, new R&D efforts and latest advances; integrated water and sanitation management; surface, ground and rainwater management; technological advances and, adoption and formulation of suitable strategies to bridge these gaps;

v. Suggest methodology/ agencies/ structures which can address issues to bring in technology information and knowledge translated for the people after assessing the capacity in the states as well as PRIs;

vi. Assess future human resource demand with suitable knowledge and skills in the sector and strategy for human resource development at all levels. Suggest role/ responsibility and methodology that may be adopted by the Mission/ Agency for empowering local bodies/ user groups, village communities to plan, implement, gain ownership and control of drinking water and sanitation systems at village/ habitation level;

vii. Taking into consideration of all existing relevant legal/ regulatory aspects/ issues involved in water quality, drinking water standards, sanitation, public health, prevention of pollution of drinking water sources, withdrawal of water for other purposes affecting

drinking water availability, preservation of drinking water sources, etc. and recommend necessary steps to rectify the same, if necessary;

viii. Suggest mechanisms for control/ regulation and enforcement of public health and pollution control requirements.

ix. Review the activities and the contribution of international and bilateral agencies and recommend possible areas of their activities to increase impact of their limited support to help best the efforts of the ministry/ mission and recommend better coordination mechanism for improved interventions for increasing regional and international collaboration, any new mechanism for betterment of the partnership with bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society, NGO/ CBO, private sector, State Governments, R&D institutions and PRIs;

x. Identify areas for private sector partnership especially for promotion of small private entrepreneur participation and for sector development as well as for local level economic activity for income generation;

xi. Review the present structure of the Mission, its relationship and functioning within the ministry, inter-se relationship with State Governments and its agencies including allocation of resources. Review the existing knowledge base, structural deficiencies and present inadequacies to respond to emerging issues and challenges and suggest appropriate restructuring/ strengthening of the Mission/ department to fulfill the goals;

xii. Suggest/ recommend any strategy or plan not specifically mentioned above, which in the opinion of the Group could contribute in achieving the goals of the Mission.

(c): The Group is to submit its report within 4 months from the date of constitution of the Group.